- 8. (Previously amended) Composition according to claim 14 which contains
  - (a) 0.01 to 10% by wt. of a compound of formula I, and
  - (b) 0.1 to 90% by wt. of a compound selected from C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl alcohols, unsubstituted or substituted with a C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> aryl, aralkyl or aryloxy group, anionic cationic, amphoteric or nonionic surfactants, dimethylforom-amide, betaines and glycerine.
- 13. (Previously presented) A compound according to formula I,

$$R_{5}$$
 $R_{7}$ 
 $R_{1}$ 
 $R_{1}$ 
 $R_{2}$ 
 $R_{3}$ 
 $R_{2}$ 
 $R_{3}$ 
 $R_{2}$ 

wherein  $R_1$ ,  $R_3$ ,  $R_5$ ,  $R_6$ , and  $R_7$  are hydrogen;  $R_2$  is an ethyl group;  $R_4$  is chlorine; and n is 1 or 2.

- 14. (Previously presented) A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative comprising:
  - a compound selected from alcohols, surfactants and solvents; and at least one compound according to formula I:

$$R_5$$
 $R_7$ 
 $R_7$ 

wherein,

- $R_1$  is hydrogen or is selected from  $C_1$ - $C_8$  alkyl, uninterrupted or interrupted by oxygen and/or sulphur atoms,  $C_2$ - $C_8$  alkenyl and  $C_3$ - $C_8$  alkynyl;
- $R_2$  is selected from  $C_1$ - $C_8$  alkyl, uninterrupted or interrupted by oxygen and/or sulphur atoms,  $C_2$ - $C_8$  alkenyl and  $C_3$ - $C_8$  alkynyl; and
- each of  $R_3$  to  $R_7$  independently, is hydrogen, halogen, nitrile or thiocyanate, or selected from  $C_1$ - $C_8$  alkyl, uninterrupted or interrupted by oxygen and/or sulphur atoms,  $C_2$ - $C_8$  alkenyl and  $C_3$ - $C_8$  alkynyl, optionally attached to the aromatic ring by -S- or -0-, and n is 1 or 2,

with the proviso, that

then n = 2;

- i) when  $R_1$  and all groups  $R_3$  through  $R_7$  are hydrogen, then n = 2;
- ii) when  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl and
  - a) all groups  $R_3$  to  $R_7$  are hydrogen, or
  - b)  $R_5$  is methyl, methoxy or chloride, and all other groups  $R_3$ ,  $R_4$ ,  $R_6$  and  $R_7$  are hydrogen,

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- iii) when  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$  and  $R_4$  are methyl and all groups  $R_3$  and  $R_5$  through  $R_7$  are hydrogen, then n =2;
- iv) when  $R_1$  and all groups  $R_3$ ,  $R_4$ ,  $R_6$  and  $R_7$  are hydrogen and  $R_5$  is methyl, isopropyl, tert-butyl, or methoxy, then n = 2;
- v) when  $R_1$ ,  $R_3$ ,  $R_6$  and  $R_7$  are hydrogen,  $R_2$  is methyl, and  $R_4$  and/or  $R_5$  are hydrogen or  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl, then n = 2;
- vi) when  $R_1$  and  $R_4$  through  $R_7$  are hydrogen,  $R_2$  is methyl or ethyl, and  $R_3$  is methyl or methoxy, then n = 2;
- vii) when  $R_1$ ,  $R_3$ ,  $R_5$  and  $R_7$  are hydrogen,  $R_2$  is methyl,  $R_4$  and  $R_6$  are methyl or  $R_4$  is hydrogen and  $R_6$  is methyl, then n = 2; and
- viii) when  $R_1$  is hydrogen,  $R_2$  is butyl,  $R_3$  and  $R_5$  are chloride, and all other groups  $R_4$ ,  $R_6$  and  $R_7$  are hydrogen, then n = 2.
- 16. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 14, wherein said compound according to formula I is present in an amount of about 0.01 to about 10% by weight.
- 17. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 14, wherein said compound according to formula I is present in an amount of about 0.05 to about 8% by weight.

- 18. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 14, wherein said compound according to formula I is present in an amount of about 0.1 to about 5% by weight.
- 19. (Withdrawn) A compound according to the formula I

$$R_{5}$$
 $R_{1}$ 
 $R_{1}$ 
 $R_{2}$ 
 $R_{1}$ 
 $R_{2}$ 
 $R_{3}$ 
 $R_{2}$ 
 $R_{2}$ 

wherein  $R_3$ ,  $R_4$ ,  $R_6$  and  $R_7$  are all hydrogen,  $R_5$  is methyl,  $R_2$  is ethyl,  $R_1$  is hydrogen, and n = 1.

20. (Withdrawn) Process for the production of a compound of formula I:

$$R_{5}$$
 $R_{7}$ 
 $R_{1}$ 
 $R_{1}$ 
 $R_{2}$ 
 $R_{3}$ 
 $R_{2}$ 
 $R_{3}$ 
 $R_{2}$ 

wherein,  $R_3$ ,  $R_4$ ,  $R_6$  and  $R_7$  are all hydrogen,  $R_5$  is methyl,  $R_2$  is ethyl,  $R_1$  is hydrogen, and n = 1

said process comprising the steps of:

- a) monoalkylating a malonic acid dialkyl ester to introduce the group R<sub>2</sub>;
- b) dialkylating the monoalkylated malonic acid alkyl ester with a benzyl halide optionally substituted at the aromatic ring to introduce the groups R<sub>3</sub> through R<sub>7</sub> which are other than hydrogen;
- c) saponifying and decarboxylating the dialkylated malonic acid dialkyl ester to form a corresponding 3-aryl-substituted propionic acid, and
- d) reducing the 3-aryl-substituted propionic acid to form a desired alcohol of formula I.
- 21. (Previously presented) A shampoo or shower gel containing a preservative comprising:

a compound selected from alcohols, surfactants and solvents;

a re-fatting agent; and

a compound according to formula I:

$$R_5$$
 $R_7$ 
 $R_1$ 
 $CH_2$ 
 $CH_2$ 
 $CH_2$ 
 $R_2$ 
 $R_3$ 
 $R_2$ 

1

wherein,

 $R_1$  is hydrogen or is selected from  $C_1$ - $C_8$  alkyl, uninterrupted or interrupted by oxygen and/or sulphur atoms,  $C_2$ - $C_8$  alkenyl and  $C_3$ - $C_8$  alkynyl;

- R<sub>2</sub> is selected from C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkyl, uninterrupted or interrupted by oxygen and/or sulphur atoms, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkenyl and C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkynyl; and
- each of  $R_3$  to  $R_7$  independently, is hydrogen, halogen, nitrile or thiocyanate, or selected from  $C_1$ - $C_8$  alkyl, uninterrupted or interrupted by oxygen and/or sulphur atoms,  $C_2$ - $C_8$  alkenyl and  $C_3$ - $C_8$  alkynyl, optionally attached to the aromatic ring by -S- or -0-, and n is 1 or 2, with the proviso that when  $R_1$  and all groups  $R_3$ ,  $R_4$ ,  $R_6$  and  $R_7$  are hydrogen and  $R_5$  is methyl, isopropyl, tert-butyl, or methoxy, then n = 2.
- 22. (Previously presented) A method of disinfecting a surface comprising the step of applying a disinfectant to said surface, said disinfectant comprising:

a compound selected from alcohols, surfactants and solvents; and a compound according to formula I:

wherein,

 $R_1$  is hydrogen or is selected from  $C_1$ - $C_8$  alkyl, uninterrupted or interrupted by oxygen and/or sulphur atoms,  $C_2$ - $C_8$  alkenyl and  $C_3$ - $C_8$  alkynyl;

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 $R_2$  is selected from  $C_1$ - $C_8$  alkyl, uninterrupted or interrupted by oxygen and/or sulphur atoms,  $C_2$ - $C_8$  alkenyl and  $C_3$ - $C_8$  alkynyl; and

each of  $R_3$  to  $R_7$  independently, is hydrogen, halogen, nitrile or thiocyanate, or selected from  $C_1$ - $C_8$  alkyl, uninterrupted or interrupted by oxygen and/or sulphur atoms,  $C_2$ - $C_8$  alkenyl and  $C_3$ - $C_8$  alkynyl, optionally attached to the aromatic ring by -S- or -0-, and n is 1 or 2, with the proviso that when  $R_1$  and all groups  $R_3$ ,  $R_4$ ,  $R_6$  and  $R_7$  are hydrogen and  $R_5$  is methyl, isopropyl, tert-butyl, or methoxy, then n = 2.

- 23. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 22, wherein said surface is skin, a mucous membrane, or a surgical glove.
- 24. (Previously presented) A method of deodorizing a surface comprising the step of applying a disinfectant to said surface, said deodorant comprising: a compound selected from alcohols, surfactants and solvents; and a compound according to formula I:

wherein,

I

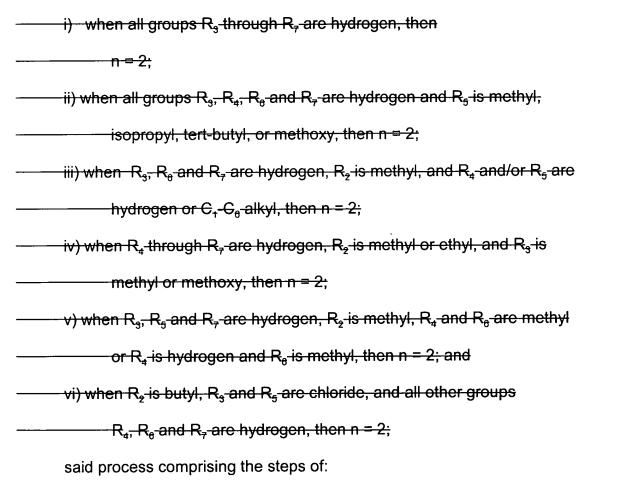
- $R_1$  is hydrogen or is selected from  $C_1$ - $C_8$  alkyl, uninterrupted or interrupted by oxygen and/or sulphur atoms,  $C_2$ - $C_8$  alkenyl and  $C_3$ - $C_8$  alkynyl;
- $R_2$  is selected from  $C_1$ - $C_8$  alkyl, uninterrupted or interrupted by oxygen and/or sulphur atoms,  $C_2$ - $C_8$  alkenyl and  $C_3$ - $C_8$  alkynyl; and
- each of  $R_3$  to  $R_7$  independently, is hydrogen, halogen, nitrile or thiocyanate, or selected from  $C_1$ - $C_8$  alkyl, uninterrupted or interrupted by oxygen and/or sulphur atoms,  $C_2$ - $C_8$  alkenyl and  $C_3$ - $C_8$  alkynyl, optionally attached to the aromatic ring by -S- or -0-, and n is 1 or 2, with the proviso that when  $R_1$  and all groups  $R_3$ ,  $R_4$ ,  $R_6$  and  $R_7$  are hydrogen and  $R_5$  is methyl, isopropyl, tert-butyl, or methoxy, then n = 2.
- 25. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 24, wherein said surface is skin.
- 26. (Currently Amended) Process for the production of a compound of formula I:

$$R_5$$
 $R_7$ 
 $R_1$ 
 $R_1$ 
 $R_2$ 
 $R_3$ 
 $R_2$ 
 $R_3$ 

ı

- R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen;
- $R_2$  is selected from  $C_1$ - $C_8$  alkyl, uninterrupted or interrupted by oxygen and/or sulphur atoms,  $C_2$ - $C_8$  alkenyl and  $C_3$ - $C_8$  alkynyl; and
- each of  $R_3$  to  $R_7$  independently, is hydrogen, halogen, nitrile or thiocyanate, or selected from  $C_1$ - $C_8$  alkyl, uninterrupted or interrupted by oxygen and/or sulphur atoms,  $C_2$ - $C_8$  alkenyl and  $C_3$ - $C_8$  alkynyl, optionally attached to the aromatic ring by -S- or -0-, and n is 1 or 2;

with the proviso, that



a) monoalkylating a malonic acid dialkyl ester to introduce the group R<sub>2</sub>;

- b) dialkylating the monoalkylated malonic acid alkyl ester with a benzyl halide optionally substituted at the aromatic ring to introduce the groups R<sub>3</sub> through R<sub>7</sub> which are other than hydrogen;
- c) saponifying and decarboxylating the dialkylated malonic acid dialkyl ester to form a corresponding 3-aryl-substituted propionic acid, and
- reducing the 3-aryl-substituted propionic acid to form a desired alcohol of formula I.
- 28. (Withdrawn) A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative according to claim 27, wherein R<sub>3</sub> to R<sub>7</sub> are hydrogen, R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen, R<sub>2</sub> is hydrogen and n is 1.
- 29. (Withdrawn) A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative according to claim 27, wherein R<sub>3</sub> to R<sub>7</sub> are hydrogen, R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen, R<sub>2</sub> is methyl, and n is 1.
- 30. (Withdrawn) A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative according to claim 27, wherein R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>5</sub> to R<sub>7</sub> are hydrogen, R<sub>4</sub> is methyl, R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen, R<sub>2</sub> is methyl, and n is 1.

- 31. (Withdrawn) A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative according to claim 27, wherein R<sub>3</sub> to R<sub>7</sub> are hydrogen, R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen, R<sub>2</sub> is ethyl, and n is 1.
- 32. (Withdrawn) A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative according to claim 27, wherein R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>5</sub> to R<sub>7</sub> are hydrogen, R<sub>4</sub> is methyl, R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen, R<sub>2</sub> is ethyl, and n is 1.
- 33. (Previously presented) A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative according to claim 14, wherein R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>5</sub> to R<sub>7</sub> are hydrogen, R<sub>4</sub> is chlorine, R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen, R<sub>2</sub> is ethyl and n is 1.
- 34. (Previously presented) A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative according to claim 14, wherein R<sub>4</sub> to R<sub>7</sub> are hydrogen, R<sub>3</sub> is chlorine, R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen, R<sub>2</sub> is ethyl and n is 1.
- 35. (Previously presented) A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative according to claim 14, wherein R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>7</sub> are hydrogen, R<sub>5</sub> is chlorine, R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen, R<sub>2</sub> is ethyl and n is 1.

- 36. (Withdrawn) A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative according to claim 27, wherein are hydrogen, R<sub>4</sub> and R<sub>5</sub> are chlorine, R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen, R<sub>2</sub> is ethyl and n is 1.
- 37. (Withdrawn) A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative according to claim 27, wherein R<sub>4</sub> to R<sub>7</sub> are hydrogen, R<sub>3</sub> is methyl, R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen, R<sub>2</sub> is ethyl and n is 1.
- 38. (Withdrawn) A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative according to claim 27, wherein R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>7</sub> are hydrogen, R<sub>4</sub> and R<sub>5</sub> are methyl, R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen, R<sub>2</sub> is ethyl and n is 1.
- 39. (Withdrawn) A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative according to claim 27, wherein R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>5</sub> to R<sub>7</sub> are hydrogen, R<sub>4</sub> is methoxy, R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen, R<sub>2</sub> is ethyl and n is 1.
- 40. (Withdrawn) A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative according to claim 27, wherein R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>7</sub> are hydrogen, R<sub>4</sub> and R<sub>5</sub> are methoxy, R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen, R<sub>2</sub> is ethyl and n is 1.

- 41. (Withdrawn) A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative according to claim 27, wherein R<sub>3</sub> to R<sub>7</sub> are hydrogen, R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen, R<sub>2</sub> is butylene, and n is 1.
- 42. (Withdrawn) A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative according to claim 27, wherein R<sub>3</sub> to R<sub>7</sub> are hydrogen, R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen, R<sub>2</sub> is pentyl and n is 1.
- 43. (New) A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative according to claim 14, wherein R<sub>1</sub> is C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>2</sub> through R<sub>7</sub> are H, and n is 1.
- 44. (New) A shampoo or shower gel containing a preservative according to claim 21, wherein R<sub>1</sub> is C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>2</sub> through R<sub>7</sub> are H, and n is 1.
- 45. (New) A method according to claim 22, wherein  $R_1$  is  $C_2H_5$ ,  $R_2$  through  $R_7$  are H, and n is 1.
- 46. (New) A method according to claim 24, wherein  $R_1$  is  $C_2H_5$ ,  $R_2$  through  $R_7$  are H, and n is 1.

47. (New) A method according to claim 26, wherein  $R_1$  is  $C_2H_5$ ,  $R_2$  through  $R_7$  are H, and n is 1.